

NEVER LET UP

Brian Balmages

Instrumentation

- 1 - Full Score
- 8 - Violin 1
- 8 - Violin 2
- 5 - Violin 3 (Viola T.C.)
- 5 - Viola
- 5 - Violoncello
- 5 - Double Bass
- 1 - Piano

FJH is now using a high-speed sorting system for parts.
As a result, all single page parts are collated before multiple page parts.

T H E
F · J · H
M U S I C
C O M P A N Y
I N C.
Frank J. Hackinson

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The Composer

Brian Balmages (b. 1975) is an award-winning composer and conductor. His music has been performed throughout the world with commissions ranging from elementary schools to professional orchestras. World premieres include prestigious venues such as Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center, and Meyerhoff Symphony Hall. His music was also performed as part of the 2013 Presidential Inaugural Prayer Service, which was attended by both President Obama and Vice President Biden. He is a recipient of the prestigious A. Austin Harding Award from the American School Band Directors Association, won the 2020 NBA William D. Revelli Composition Contest with his work *Love and Light*, and in 2016 was awarded the James Madison University Distinguished Alumni Award from the School of Visual and Performing Arts (the first year the award was given). In the same year, he was commissioned by his other alma mater, the University of Miami, to compose music for the inauguration of the institution's 6th president, Dr. Julio Frenk.

As a conductor, Mr. Balmages enjoys regular engagements with all-state and region bands and orchestras, as well as university and professional ensembles throughout the world. Notable guest conducting appearances have included the Midwest Clinic, Western International Band Clinic, College Band Directors Conference, American School Band Directors Association National Conference and others. Additional conducting appearances have included the Kennedy Center and Meyerhoff Symphony Hall as well as engagements in Australia, Canada and Italy. Currently, he is Director of Instrumental Publications for The FJH Music Company and Assistant Director of Bands and Orchestras at Towson University.

About the Music

Persistence, dedication, intention, drive – these are words that come to mind when I hear the phrase “never let up.” They describe the dynamic between human resiliency and the life of a musician. This is why there is a universal understanding that the arts drive to the core of our humanity – why music makes us feel more human. It points to human resiliency, perseverance and vigilance. These same characteristics define some of the greatest artists who ever lived, as well as the leaders of today. This piece serves as a reminder that talent will only take you so far. Intelligence and intuition will not always get you across the finish line, but persistence, dedication, intention and drive – those characteristics that define some of the most inspirational people I have worked with over the years, will get you there, and they will always keep me striving to be better, to step out of my safety zone and push myself further – to “never let up,” even when people around me say I am “good enough.” There is only one person in the world who gets to decide when we have reached our true potential. To find that person, all we have to do is look inward, to ourselves.

(Spoiler alert – I will always be a student of music, so I will never reach my true potential. We can always grow, develop and learn. That said, I also make time to appreciate where I am, how I got here, and then look forward to what I will learn next!)

- Brian Balmages

NEVER LET UP

BRIAN BALMAGES
(ASCAP)

Aggressively (♩ = 126)

The musical score is arranged for Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola (Violin 3), Violoncello, Double Bass, and Piano. The tempo is marked 'Aggressively' with a quarter note equal to 126 beats per minute. The key signature has one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The score is divided into two systems, with measures 1-4 in the first system and measures 5-8 in the second system. Dynamic markings include *f* (forte). Fingerings are indicated with numbers 1-4. A large red watermark 'Preview Only' is overlaid diagonally across the score.



Hear and download this piece at www.fjhmusic.com

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9

Score for measures 9-13. The score includes staves for Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Vcl., D.B., and Pno. The key signature is one sharp (F#). Measure 9 starts with a box containing the number 9. Measure 10 has a 'V' above the first violin staff. Measure 11 has a '4' above the first violin staff. Measure 12 has a 'V' above the first violin staff. Measure 13 has a 'V' above the first violin staff. The piano part features a rhythmic accompaniment in the right hand and a more active line in the left hand.

17

Score for measures 14-17. The score includes staves for Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Vcl., D.B., and Pno. The key signature is one sharp (F#). Measure 14 has a 'V' above the first violin staff. Measure 15 has a 'V' above the first violin staff and a '3' above the second violin staff. Measure 16 has a '4' above the first violin staff. Measure 17 has a box containing the number 17. The piano part continues with its rhythmic accompaniment.

18 19 20 21

Violin 1 (Vln. 1) and Violin 2 (Vln. 2) parts feature melodic lines with occasional four-measure rests. The Viola (Vla.) part provides a steady accompaniment. The Violoncello (Vcl.) and Double Bass (D.B.) parts play a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes. The Piano (Pno.) part consists of a block chord accompaniment in the right hand and a rhythmic bass line in the left hand.

22 23 24 25

Violin 1 (Vln. 1) and Violin 2 (Vln. 2) parts continue with melodic lines. The Viola (Vla.) part has a four-measure rest in measure 22. The Violoncello (Vcl.) and Double Bass (D.B.) parts include fingerings (V, 1, 3, 0, 1) and bowing marks (V). The Piano (Pno.) part continues with its block chord accompaniment.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

Pno.

26 27 28 29 30

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

Pno.

31 32 33 34

39

35 36 37 38 39

This block contains the musical score for measures 35 through 39. It features six staves: Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Vcl., D.B., and Pno. The music is in a key with one sharp (F#) and a 2/4 time signature. A box containing the number '39' is positioned above the first staff of the fifth measure. A large red watermark 'Preview Only' is overlaid diagonally across the page.

40 41 42 43

This block contains the musical score for measures 40 through 43. It features the same six staves as the previous block: Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Vcl., D.B., and Pno. The music continues in the same key and time signature. In measure 42, the Vln. 2 staff has a '3' above it, and in measure 43, it has a '1' above it. The Vcl. and D.B. staves have 'V' above some notes in measures 40 and 41. A large red watermark 'Preview Only' is overlaid diagonally across the page.

47

Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vcl.
D.B.
Pno.

44 45 46 47 48

This block contains the musical score for measures 44 through 48. It features six staves: Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, Violoncello, Double Bass, and Piano. The music is in a key with one sharp (F#) and a 2/4 time signature. A box containing the number '47' is positioned above the first staff of the second system. A large red watermark 'Preview Only' is overlaid diagonally across the score.

Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vcl.
D.B.
Pno.

49 50 51 52 53

This block contains the musical score for measures 49 through 53. It features the same six staves as the previous block: Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, Violoncello, Double Bass, and Piano. The music continues in the same key and time signature. A large red watermark 'Preview Only' is overlaid diagonally across the score.